Motor Vehicle Operations
(OIF/OEF)

- *Observation.* **Warfighters are not trained for environment nor traffic hazards associated with driving in the AOR.**

- *Discussion.* **Vehicle accidents occur due to environmental changes that drivers are not prepared for. Local procedures, such as negotiating "roundabouts" not familiar to U.S. drivers. Local citizens often claim the U.S. Military as the cause of vehicle accidents, maneuver damage, and pedestrian accidents.**

- *Lesson learned.*
  - **Driving hazards such as livestock, children, broken down vehicles, vehicles traveling on the wrong side of the road, or vehicles driving at night without headlights are a common occurrence.**
  - **Accident reports indicate the cause factors for most accidents are: driving too fast for the road conditions; following too close to the vehicle in front; driver impairment caused by fatigue, medication, inexperience, overconfidence, and attitude.**
  - **The demands of combat often result in motor vehicle operations being conducted without adhering to local traffic laws. Populace observed and mimicked driving habits of warfighters.**
  - **Most countries in the AOR often do not have a driving program – people are self taught and are only required to pass an eye test, prove they can read Arabic and have a form of ID.**

- *Recommendation.*
  - **Leadership enforce the use of seat belts.**
  - **Expand the master driver's program to account for lessons learned in the AOR.**
  - **Develop a Drivers Training film that demonstrates the unique aspects of middle eastern driving.**
  - **Develop a driving courses that which require negotiating obstacles equivalent to those found in the AOR.**